

LUXURY HOMES | ENTERTAINMENT | ART | BOATING | TRAVEL

# GOASTAL Lifestyle

[coastallifestylemagazine.com](http://coastallifestylemagazine.com)

DEC-JAN 2021



**WING FOILING HITS  
THE GULF COAST!**



# AN ONO ISLAND HOME

## OF THEIR OWN

*by Sabe Fink | Photography by Bailey Chastang Photography*

**Bonnie and David Martin of Birmingham have always loved Ono Island, and enjoyed the Martin family home on Ono Harbor for many years.** That home was sold after Martin's father passed away, but wonderful memories remained, and the couple began to plan for an Ono home of their own. Drawing on their memories and their own needs, David and Bonnie began their search. "We had some definite insights into what we wanted in a beach house," said David. "We looked at available homes on the market, but we couldn't find exactly what we wanted." They came to realize that many of the homes they admired had been built by Phillip Vlahos of VDT Construction, so they reached out to him to begin the process of starting from scratch. "Phillip introduced us to Bob Chatham, and we discovered that he had designed much of what we had seen and loved in our search, and we were fortunate that Tucker Shavers found us a great lot on Old River very quickly," Martin added.

When Bonnie and David first sat down with Chatham they knew he understood what they envisioned. "I wanted a 'casual beach look' that could be elegant and still be low maintenance and livable for our large family," Bonnie said. "We have three sons, daughters-in-law, and eight grandchil-

dren, and we all like to be together, so the challenge for Bob was to keep large, open gathering areas while still having room for sixteen people to sleep if everyone showed up at the same time!"

The street side exterior of the house has a symmetrical, geometric façade which was born out of the relatively narrow lot and the Martins' desire to utilize as much of the space as possible. "Bonnie was the one with the vision for the house," David notes. "I was along for the ride. I would be happy with a fish camp if it had a place for my boat!" Under Bonnie's direction, the home truly achieves the goal of elegance, low maintenance, and livability. When the Martins sat down with Chatham and his design team, using Chatham's creative brainstorming-and-sketching process, they fashioned an exterior with a variety of textures, including cedar shake siding, board and batten, and painted brick. A metal roof with open rafters and decorative roof brackets, plus operable light blue shutters add beach house charm to the coastal vernacular style cottage. The symmetrical design features matching single garages on either side of the entry.





*"We do love it here and plan to continue to be here as often as possible."*









The main level boasts a dramatic glass wall with panoramic river views. Bonnie wanted the kitchen to be where the family could cook, eat, talk, and entertain in casual comfort. The roomy kitchen with walk-in pantry flows into the sunny dining room, which features sliding glass doors onto the covered porch. The living room, with its wet bar and adjoining loft space, has sliding doors to the outdoor living area. The main floor master suite also has access to the outdoor space. The master suite bath contains a walk-in shower, freestanding tub, and an expansive closet with convenient access to the laundry room.

There are three bedrooms on the ground level, two with water views, and one with six custom-designed bunk beds with built-in stairs. "Ideal for grandchildren!" boasts David Martin. There is also a central bonus room on the ground level, complete with wet bar and ample room for active play. This area is accessible from the pool, and is constructed to withstand plenty of activity.

"Sometimes, the building process can be stressful," says David, "but it was certainly not the case with this house. Bob's team almost read our minds and put our dreams on paper. The Vlahos team bent over backwards to accommodate all our last-minute changes, and put our vision and Bob's drawings into bricks and mortar. We have lifelong friends now, not just contractors." Phillip Vlahos notes, "The elements necessary for a successful build are the collaborative efforts of plans,

builder, homeowner, and interior design. The Martin project had all those in sync and it shows up in a big way in the finished product. VDT Construction was delighted to be part of this project and looks forward to working with this team again in the future."

For the interiors, Bonnie Martin called on her longtime friend Pandy Agnew of Birmingham to help her find comfortable, attractive furnishings that were made to be lived in and on – like kitchen seating that can withstand kids in wet swimsuits. Mobile Appliance worked with a custom cabinet designer to make the most of the kitchen space. Window Décor & More in Orange Beach helped the Martins find the perfect window treatments to keep the light airy feel of their many windows.

While Birmingham is still the Martins' primary home, they find themselves spending more and more time at the Ono Island home they have created. "We do love it here, and plan to continue to be here as often as possible," says David. "We have been here almost all of the past six months."

**CHATHAM CUSTOM HOME DESIGN, INC.**

Post Office Box 2234  
Daphne, AL 36526









VLAHOS DEBOGORY & TUCK  
CONSTRUCTION

**Commitment. Service. Detail. Communication. Experience.**

*We specialize in making your dream home a reality.  
Allow us to serve you with a custom home, renovation or addition.*

**Destin / Niceville / 30A / Orange Beach**

**Phillip J. Vlahos**

P: 205.296.6111

[pv@vdtconstruction.com](mailto:pv@vdtconstruction.com)

**Brodie DeBogory**

P: 225.268.0873

[bd@vdtconstruction.com](mailto:bd@vdtconstruction.com)

**Scottie Tuck**

P: 251.223.7114

[st@vdtconstruction.com](mailto:st@vdtconstruction.com)

[WWW.VDTCONSTRUCTION.COM](http://WWW.VDTCONSTRUCTION.COM)

FL RR282811872 AL 22423